

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Carbon mapping
- Household monitoring & evaluation
- Data analytics
- Community events

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NEWSLETTER

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CARBON MAPPING YOUR COMMUNITY



Between October and December 2013, the EVALOC team, alongside the local low carbon community groups, organised carbon mapping workshops in four of the six case study communities, and a meeting with a fifth community is being planned for January.

The carbon mapping workshops provided the opportunity for the research team to feedback findings from the carbon mapping and thermal imaging surveys that took place in the individual communities.

The carbon maps were produced using the DECoRuM carbon mapping modelling tool, developed by Professor Rajat Gupta. It allows estimated energy use and carbon emissions on a house-by-house

Left: Carbon map of EVALOC community using 2012 data

level to be visually presented at a community scale. It also evaluates potential energy efficiency measures, and their relative costs and subsequently the estimated reductions in carbon emissions if the measures were applied. Approximately 250-300 houses per community were mapped.

The carbon maps can be useful to both community groups and individual households, as they not only help make energy visible but also act as a communication tool and help assist in prioritising action.

The events were very

successful, with an average turnout of 20-30 people per event. Follow-up evaluation is currently being undertaken.

The maps rely on desk-based activities but questionnaires were sent to houses in the area to gather more accurate data. Thanks must go to all the respondents for their invaluable input as well as the community groups themselves for their help in organising and publicising the workshops.

The presentations from the events are available on the EVALOC website and community carbon mapping reports will be made available in the New Year.

Right: Poster showing the potential carbon reductions following different energy efficiency packages, and whether they would be cost-effective



DECC's COMMUNITY ENERGY STRATEGY

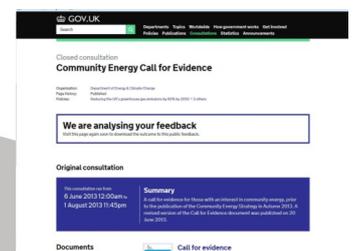
As a part of the EVALOC project, we submitted formal evidence and attended two consultation workshops for the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC) call for evidence on Community Energy.

This eagerly anticipated Community Energy Strategy, set to be released in the new year, places emphasis on the potential

of community energy to help reduce carbon emissions, both on a local and national level, as well as support energy security and enhance community investment and help reconnect communities.

To view our evidence document please visit the website where it is freely available to download.

Below: DECC Community Energy Strategy webpage



HOUSEHOLD MONITORING & EVALUATION UPDATE



Above: Gas, electricity and environmental conditions such as temperature, CO₂ and relative humidity are being monitored every 5 minutes in 29 households across six communities

The monitoring and evaluation of households within the six case study communities is continuing. Monitoring data for 29 houses has now been gathered for approximately 12 months and analysis of the first 6 months is due to be completed by the end of

the year. The next stage is follow-up interviews with the 88 households, to find out what, if anything has changed over the past 18 months. These interviews will be taking place in the winter/spring of 2014 and the EVALOC researchers

will be in touch with the households early in the new year to begin arranging suitable dates and times. As always, thanks go the households for their continuing support in the research project.

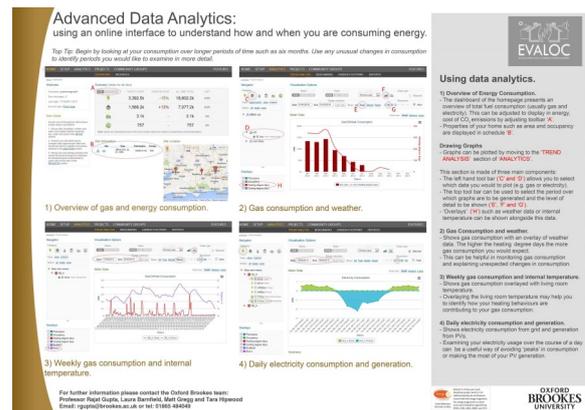
DATA ANALYTICS - VISUALISING HOUSEHOLD ENERGY USE

An exciting development in the EVALOC project is the creation of a web-based tool to show the Group A households (homes with whole house monitoring systems) their energy use and internal environmental conditions every 30 minutes in a

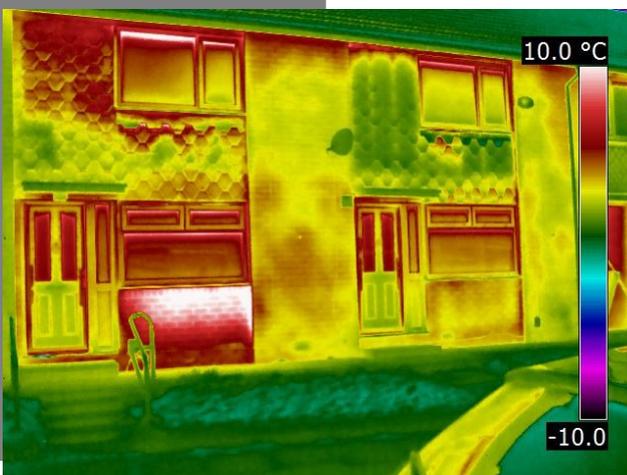
graphic and user-friendly way. The software should also allow the households to make suitable comparisons

against benchmark data. Log-in details will be sent to all Group A households in early January 2014.

Right: Poster showing visuals from upcoming web-based tool to provide households with accurate energy and environmental data



THERMAL IMAGING SURVEY - FINDINGS



Above: Thermal image of uninsulated home showing dramatic heat loss below window

The thermal images of all EVALOC households that were taken last winter to evaluate the performance of the external walls of the houses are now available to households.

The carbon mapping workshops were used to share the results of the thermal imaging surveys with the communities, but not all EVALOC households could make the event.

If you are an EVALOC household and would like to find out more about how your house is performing, and if/where you can reduce heat losses, then contact Laura Barnfield on lbarnfield@brookes.ac.uk or contact the EVALOC researchers through the website.

Community thermal imaging reports will be available on the website in the new year.

KIRKLEES CELEBRATION EVENT

Birkby Community Celebration Event

Saturday December 7th 2013
12.30pm-3.30pm
Birkby Fartown Community Centre
Wasp Nest Road,
Fartown, Huddersfield, HD1 6HA

ALL WELCOME!
Come along for an afternoon of fun!
Free to all residents.
Come along and meet people working in your area: Your local Councillors
Childrens Centre, Library and Information Centre, Children and Young Peoples services, Citizens Advice, Schools, One Good Turn, Kirklees College and more!

Bring your friends and family.
ALL THIS FOR FREE!

For more information, please contact –the
Childrens Centre on 01484 223940



FREE
prize draw

All this...
free!

- ◆ Hot food for all residents
- ◆ Childrens and young people activities
- ◆ Have a go at learning something new
- ◆ Advice on how to keep safer and warmer in your home
- ◆ Advice on saving ££ on your bills
- ◆ Help to use a computer and get online
- ◆ Arts and craft activities for all the family.

Kirklees Council held a second successful event for the local community from Hillhouse on December 7th at the local community centre.

The event brought the community together for: a celebration of the support and activity's available in the local community; to raise awareness and take up of services that can help residents with fuel poverty, saving money and living a healthier lifestyle; and to actively involve residents in

follow up activities and to make appointments to provide follow up support and learning opportunities to residents. The event involved a range of interactive activities and information for families and children and attracted large numbers of local people. The event had a real buzz with people enjoying the social aspect as well as the learning opportunities, including learning about their energy use at the EVALOC and the local Citizens Advice Bureau stalls.

TOUR OF WESTMILL WIND FARM

'Hook Norton-Low Carbon organised a shared learning 'tour' to learn about Westmill wind farm in South Oxfordshire and a nearby Anaerobic Digestion plan. About 15 local people went on the tour in cars hired from the local car club which are powered by waste-oil diesel'. More details on Westmill can be found on their website: www.westmill.coop



Left: Westmill wind farm
Image courtesy of: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

ADDRESSING FUEL POVERTY IN HIGHER INCOME AREAS

Low Carbon West Oxford held a shared learning event at the end of November, focusing on 'Addressing fuel poverty in higher income areas'.

The workshop was an opportunity for LCWO to share their experiences of approaching fuel poverty and

affordable warmth with other local community groups; bring together the key delivery agents for affordable warmth; draw out policy lessons, and discuss how the combination of local groups, support organisations, energy agencies and local authorities can best

work together on this issue.

A report from the workshop will be available on the EVALOC website in January 2014.

UPCOMING FOCUS GROUPS & EVENTS

Awel Aman Tawe will hold their 'Green Routines' exhibition at the Welsh Assembly in February 2014. The exhibition is a bi-lingual touring installation presenting everyday low-carbon routines that are replicable in most households.

We plan to hold the third and last focus group with communities in February / March 2014, and will be in touch with community contacts in early 2014 to give some background and arrange dates.

Groups are planning various training events with the Living Space project (formerly known as Capacity Global) in the first few months of 2014.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Sharing our findings:

Over the past six months, the EVALOC project team have been presenting the early findings of various aspects of the research at national and international events.

These include:

- A one day workshop on *Energised Communities* as part of the Bristol Green Week in Bristol (June 2013)
- *Sustainable Building and Construction Conference* at

Coventry University (July 2013)

- *Passive and Low Energy Architecture Conference* in Munich (September 2013)
- *Radical Emissions Reduction Conference* at the Tyndall Centre in London (December 2013)

Links to the conference papers and presentations are available online at the EVALOC website: www.evaloc.org.uk.

Also a write-up on EVALOC was published in Research Forum

Newsletter of Oxford Brookes University:

<http://static.brookes.ac.uk/emags/researchforum2013/>

Monitoring and Evaluation for Sustainable Communities:

Building on work started with EVALOC, researchers at ECI have produced a range of resources to help community groups self-monitor and evaluate their work: <http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/research/technologies/projects/monitoringandevaluation/>



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The EVALOC project seeks to assess, explain and communicate the changes in energy use due to community activities within six selected case study projects under the Department of Energy and Climate Change's (DECC) Low Carbon Communities Challenge (LCCC) initiative, a government-supported initiative to transform the way communities use and produce energy, and build new ways of supporting more sustainable living.



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